

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

May 12, 2015

On January 9, 2007, the Board approved the Energy and Environmental Policy (No. 3.045) to provide guidelines for the development and enhancement of energy conservation and environmental programs within County departments. The policy subsequently led to the development and implementation of many programs addressing energy and water efficiency and conservation, environmental stewardship, and public outreach and education. The policy sunsetted on December 20, 2014.

While the work for energy and environmental issues continue, it is evident that a more comprehensive range of efforts is needed to continue Los Angeles County's progress in becoming a more sustainable community with enhanced quality of life, environmental resources, economic health and public health.

The importance of sustainability has been widely emphasized in recent federal, state, and County initiatives and mandates directed at resource conservation, sustainable community planning, energy and Greenhouse gas reduction, and community adaptation and resiliency against climate impact. Addressing sustainability issues requires further coordinated work among various public and private entities on a local and regional scale. However, County Departments often seek individual solutions to sustainability issues. In order to overcome this, the County must strive to establish a

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mechanism that aids communication, coordination, and collaboration among County Departments on sustainability matters.

Other governmental agencies, Federal departments, the City of Los Angeles and numerous private corporations have already adopted sustainability policies. Their policies have driven development of a variety of sustainable strategies through an internal group that facilitates organization-wide coordination.

To address various sustainability challenges in a more efficient manner, County departments, led by the Department of Public Works and the Internal Services Department, have worked to develop an updated environmental sustainability policy. The proposed policy, initially discussed at the County's Operations Cluster on January 29, 2015, includes revising the title of the related Board Policy 3.045, from Energy and Environmental Policy to Countywide Environmental Sustainability Policy. This new sustainability policy provides direction and guidance for the development of a County-wide sustainability group, the Los Angeles County Sustainability Council (Council). ~~That provides direction and guidance for the development of a County wide sustainability group, the Los Angeles County Sustainability Council (Council).~~ ~~The proposed must be appropriately~~ Council is structured and empowered to allow it to perform County-wide sustainability goal setting, reflected in a County Sustainability Program Framework, which will be formally reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors at a later date. The Council will also facilitate multi-departmental coordination for grant applications and program development and specific project delivery. ~~The existing Energy and Environment policy should also be retitled as the Countywide Sustainability Policy (Policy) for this purpose.~~ Where appropriate, this Council should work to include Environmental Justice principles, for ~~the benefit of~~ individuals and communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants. The aim is should be to ~~lift~~ eliminate the unfair burden ~~from~~ on those most vulnerable communities.

The Policy, through the Council and its ~~program framework~~ Sustainability Program Framework, will allow for:

- Resource savings in developing and implementing sustainability strategies through integrated efforts among County departments;
- Regional leadership in sustainability provided by the County through coordination across all County departments and other public and private entities;
- Streamlined communication with the Board on the Board directives, policies, and inquiries and all other existing and future state and federal sustainability initiatives, policies, and mandates;
- Transparency and accountability in following up with the aforementioned initiatives by monitoring, tracking, and reporting the County's performance using a metrics based dashboard system; and
- Consolidated sustainability reporting of the County following industry standard sustainability reporting guidelines.

An updated Board Policy 3.045, Countywide Environmental Sustainability Policy was tentatively approved by the County's Audit Committee on March 19, 2015. The Audit Committee has calendared a follow-up discussion of the new policy on May 21, 2015. Following this discussion, the Department of Public Works and the Internal Services Department will submit the new Countywide Environmental Sustainability Policy for formal consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors ~~approve the proposed Countywide Sustainability Policy~~ and direct the Internal Services Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Regional Planning, Department of Public Health and Community Development Commission in collaboration with Interim Chief Executive Officer to:

- ~~Establish the Los Angeles County Sustainability Council and identify representatives from participating County departments;~~
- ~~Convene the County to~~ Review the proposed Countywide Environmental

Sustainability Policy to assess potential enhancements that can be made to incorporate necessary ~~develop a comprehensive sustainability program framework including performance monitoring, tracking and reporting strategies/outcomes and where appropriate include~~ Environmental Justice principles such as those ~~used~~ codified in State statute (CAL. GOV. CODE § 65040.12); and

- Submit a report and any necessary Environmental Justice-related revisions to the proposed Sustainability Policy for consideration during ~~to the June 2, 2015, Board of Supervisors meeting in 90 days, on the actions needed to implement a Countywide Sustainability Policy~~

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